

THE MORNING NEWS

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Aruba is honored to honor you!



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples, whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Playa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Richard and Mrs. Val Wapner from Wildwood Crest NJ and Mr. Ed and Mrs. Kathy Thibault from Westminister MA USA. The honorees are loyal members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Playa Linda is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Ludmila Geerman representing the Playa Linda Beach Resort.

Thousands protest ahead of Chavez anniversary

CARACAS (AFP) - Thousands of flag-waving protesters flooded the streets of Venezuela's capital Tuesday to keep the pressure on the government on the eve of commemorations marking the anniversary of Hugo Chavez's death.

Led by students, marchers dressed in white proceeded peacefully as they streamed through middle-class neighborhoods of Caracas toward Petare, a sprawling slum on the city's eastern edge.

The demonstrators said they wanted to show that protesters are not just from the middle-class and that the capital's poorer places are not all strongholds of the socialist government.

"It's a lie that Petare is 100 percent Chavista," said Morela Perez, a 39-year-old unemployed resident of the barrio, which is known to include a mix of government backers and supporters of opposition leader Henrique

Capriles.

Holding a sign that read "Petare you are not Chavista," she said protests have not happened there because people are afraid of pro-Chavez activists.

At least 18 people have died and more than 260 were injured since the protests erupted February 4 in the western border city of San Cristobal, igniting the biggest challenge yet to the nearly year-old government of Chavez's handpicked successor, Nicolas Maduro.

The opposition has been intent on keeping up the momentum of month-old protests against the Maduro government, which is trying just as hard to defuse the protest movement.

The government has encouraged Venezuelans to take full advantage of the annual Carnival holidays, which end Tuesday.

On Wednesday, it is staging a military and civilian pa-

rade to mark one year since Chavez's death of cancer, after 14 years in office.

Rampant crime, soaring inflation, shortages and worsening living conditions have fueled anger with the government, particularly among the hard-hit middle class.

Analysts say the protests centered on the middle-class have yet to pose a threat to the Maduro government, which relies on a well of support among the poor.

But Mariana Fonseca, a 39-year-old graphic designer in a baseball cap the colors of the Venezuelan flag, said the protesters were marching toward Petare because the poor also are affected by street crime.

"The people in the barrios are also with the cause," she said.

"I am protesting for many reasons. One is the violence in the streets, the robberies and the kidnappings. But also because of the shortages of the things like flour, oil and toilet paper," she said.

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US pledges \$1 bln to Ukraine as Kerry visits



US Secretary of State John Kerry (C), Oleksandr Turchynov, Parliament Speaker and Ukraine's interim President (L) and Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk shake hands during their talks in Kiev.

KIEV (AFP) - Washington on Tuesday announced a \$1 billion support package for debt-laden Ukraine as US Secretary of State John Kerry became the highest-profile foreign diplomat to visit Kiev's new interim government amid a Cold-War style standoff with Russia.

Stepping up the rhetoric against Russia, Kerry accused Moscow of looking for a "pretext" to invade Ukraine and condemned Russia's in-

tervention on the flashpoint Crimean peninsula as an "act of aggression".

Kerry's trip and the announcement of financial aid seemed designed to highlight Washington's determination to support the authorities in Kiev as the West grapples to bring under control the most serious crisis in the region since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Continued on pg 6

Carnaval Schedule

TUE. MARCH - 4
Grand Burning of the
MOMO - Entertainment
Center - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

WED-MARCH - 5
ASH WEDNESDAY

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Canadian teams will join the Himno & Bandera Softball Tournaments on March 18



Earl Sutherland with PM Eman

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's annual baseball/softball tournament for Himno and Bandera Day on March 18 attained authentic international status last year with two veteran teams from Canada in the 50+ and 60+ divisions joining in the competition. The players and their spouses had such a whopping great time on the island, they are coming back to do it all again this year.

The hands-across-the-sea collaborative is thanks to the efforts of Earl Sutherland from Ancaster, Canada, who enjoys a very special relationship with Aruba. The retired transport specialist and self-proclaimed baseball fanatic was actually born on the island and lived here until the age of 15; his father was a refinery engineer with Esso.

In 1995, Earl began returning to Aruba annually, spending three months here during the winter. He still has cousins on the island among the Gibson family, often rotating between their homes as a welcome guest.

Earl refreshed his friendships with the boys he hung around with in his early teens, many of them equally enthusiastic ball players, and he soon found himself joining in on their training sessions. His island friend George strenuously urged Earl to get a Canadian team together and bring them to the island to compete in the annual national day tournaments.

With the kind cooperation of Quality Apartments on Aruba and a good friend back in Canada who is a travel agent, it came to pass. 24 veteran players from Ancaster, Hamilton and Burlington Amateur Leagues of Canada joined the event for the first time last year. Unfortunately, they did not make it to the playoffs. It appears Aruba's teams are quite tough, competing throughout the year and training continually, unhindered by ball fields being buried under a few feet of snow a good portion of the year.

Continued on pg 3



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Canadian teams...

Continued from pg 2

The Canadian teams will participate in three days of qualifying games beginning on March 15, at 9:30 AM, in the Aruba Juniors Ballpark in Oranjestad. A truly international event, the tournament welcomes teams from Curaçao, St. Maarten and Bonaire.

The finals will take place on Tuesday, March 18 with two games in the morning to decide the winners in the 50+ and 60+, with winners among the local teams and the international teams. The teams play by the International Softball Federation Rules, but Earl took note that his players have to spend around six weeks prior to the trip training to get accustomed to the Aruban and international standard of pitching, a bit different than what they know at home.

Last year, the winners were the Kenro Vets team of Aruba, which includes among its players Governor Fredis Refunjol, an admitted baseball fanatic as well. This year they hope to fare better, and welcome their fellow Canadians, either living or vacationing on the island, to take their place in the stands to cheer them on.

Earl has become quite involved with the island community regarding future star athletes. He saw an opportunity to lend a helping hand to Aruban youth. Discovering that his local Canadian leagues usually threw their used equipment in the rubbish bin at the end of the season, he collected all the bats, gloves, balls, jerseys and uniforms that can be used for training, hats, batting hel-

metts, shoes and catchers gear, in sizes to fit Little to Senior Leaguers, and is donating the lot to island teams.

On the final day of the tournament, half a container full of baseball equipment will be distributed to the Aruba Juniors home team. The other half will go to the Xander Bogaerts Dare to Dream Foundation, which is dedicated to providing equipment, transport and funding for young Arubans with dreams of someday making it to the Majors, like their hero, Xander, who helped the Boston Red Sox win the World Series in October of last year.

"The equipment was tied up at the port because of import taxes," explains Earl, "even though the lot will not be sold, but donated. Fortunately, Balashi Malta came to the rescue and paid the fees so they can insure that the kids get this equipment. They were just great about it." Balashi Malta is an official sponsor of the Dare to Dream Foundation.

Team Canada is competing with the blessings of their local Amateur Baseball Commissioner, Lloyd Ferguson, an MP who has also been playing all his life. The tournament is a tribute to how sports, especially baseball, connects people from all walks of life and almost all countries. The passion for this particular sports seems to know no bounds or boundaries.

"I hope my fellow Canadians will come out to cheer us on the field," expressed Earl. "They will see the Red & White flying right there next to the Aruban flag and that of other countries. They can be sure we will have a grand time."

Weather Update Aruba

WEATHER: MOSTLY SUNNY AND NO SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL IS EXPECTED.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 31 CENTIGRADE / MINIMUM TEMPERATURE 25 CENTIGRADE.

SUNRISE 06:54 AM / SUNSET 06:50 PM.

WIND: MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS DIRECTION EAST AVERAGE 17 KNOTS WITH MAXIMUM OF 27 KNOTS.

GENERAL SITUATION: ON THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AN AREA OF HIGH PRESSURE IS INTENSIFYING CAUSING TRADEWINDS TO PICKUP SPEED. SAHARAN DUST MAY REDUCE VISIBILITY SOMEWHAT.

MARINE CONDITIONS: WAVE DIRECTION EAST WITH WAVEHEIGHT OF 5 TO 7 FEET.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WEEK: SKIES MOSTLY SUNNY. AFTER MIDNIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, CHANCE OF A LOCAL SHOWER OF SHORT DURATION.

TRADEWINDS ARE GRADUALLY PICKING UP SPEED TILL THURSDAY.



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Census Office will not be attending passport petitions on March 5, 6 and 7



make the necessary adjustments to comply with this law.

As of March 10, all applicants for a new passport will be fingerprinted; left and right forefinger. Also the new passport will be valid for 10 years instead of 5.

The Netherlands will change the price for each passport submitted to Aruba, consequently the price for a new passport will change, which will be announced in the coming days.

ORANJESTAD –The Census and Civil Registration Office announces to the general public that on March 5, 6 and 7 it cannot attend petitions for new passports. Personnel can only hand over passports that are ready.

The reason is that as of March 10, the new Dutch passports law will come into force and the Census and Registration Office must

Starting March 10, The Census and Registration Office will attend all clients who made an appointment to apply for a new passport.

For more information, readers may call Monday to Friday during office hours at tel.: 583-8181 except on Wednesday afternoon when the office is closed.

Breast Cancer and Fear



Reports of women known to us having breast cancer is becoming more and more common in recent times. These may be family members, friends or colleagues on the job. Wherever you go you hear people talking about this disease, even on the radio and television. This may even create fear in you that soon you too may be diagnosed with breast cancer, especially when you have to wait for the results of a Mammogram exam. Also, if you already had breast cancer you may be afraid that it may have returned.

Even if you may have feelings of fear, you will not necessarily get breast cancer. Statistics reveal that 1 in

every 8 women has a chance of getting breast cancer. Hence, it is wise to do self control every month one week after your period. This could feel strange at first, but soon you will be totally familiar with your breasts. You will be able to detect any irregularity right away. The Mary Joan Foundation is available to respond to any questions you may have. They can provide all the information you need on the subject of breast cancer.

For more information contact the Mary Joan Center at Tel. 588-9999. Email: maryjoanfoundation@setar-net.aw or follow them on Facebook: Mary Joan Foundation Aruba.

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The Netherlands drops out of top five innovative EU countries

The Netherlands dropped one place to 6th in the latest European innovation index, published annually by the European Commission.

Top of the index is Sweden, followed by Denmark, Germany, Finland and Luxembourg.

Innovation is an important indicator of future economic growth and how quickly a country will come out of the financial crisis, the Commission said in a statement.

The Netherlands scored well on innovation until 2013 when investment by companies and government in research and development dropped sharply.

The government's scientific research council WRR recently criticised government policy on innovation,

saying there was little attention being paid to the question of where money would be made in the future.

Economic affairs minister Henk Kamp reacted by reiterating that the government is doing enough and that it is too early to make a judgement on innovation policy.

The most innovative regions in the Netherlands are the province of Noord-Bra-

bant and the Randstad region comprising Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. In these areas, companies, universities and government are working together to develop new products that will withstand international competition.

Outside the EU, the most innovative countries are the US, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland.

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LIVE STANDUP COMEDY IN ARUBA

New York Comedy Stars to Perform at the Aruba Marriott



ORANJESTAD -- After rave reviews and packed crowds, some of the finest comedians from New York return to Aruba to perform at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino from Sunday March 9th to Friday March 28th.

The shows will take place six nights per week with the exception of Thursdays.

The shows will start at 9pm. Doors will open at 8pm.

Tickets may be purchased with CASH ONLY, and are available for purchase at the Marriott Resort lobby.

As a bonus, each comedy ticket will be worth up to \$50 in Free Slot Play at the Marriott Aruba Stellaris Casino and provide a 20% discount to Marriott's Aruba La Vista restaurant.

"Aruba Ray's Comedy Show" is hosted by comedian Ray Ellin. The ninety-minute event will feature Ellin and fellow comedians Kevin Meaney, Chuck Nice, Lenny Marcus, Joe List, DC Benny, Kyle Grooms, and Moody McCarthy.

All performers have appeared in major films, as well as on dozens of tv programs ranging from The Tonight Show to the Letterman Show to Comedy Central.

Nice and List will appear with Ellin the 9th - 12th.

Nice and Marcus will appear with Ellin the 14th - 16th.

Marcus and Grooms will appear with Ellin the 17th - 19th.

Meaney and McCarthy will appear with Ellin the 21st - 23rd. Meaney and Benny will appear with Ellin the 24th to the 28th.

"Each of these comedians are truly excellent, and I'm

"Aruba Ray's Comedy Show" to feature top NYC talent from feature films and television shows from March 9th to March 28th



thrilled to bring them to Aruba, which I love. I first came two years ago, and have returned every month since. It's an amazing island," said Ellin. "And the Marriott will be a fantastic venue for the shows."

Ray Ellin is an accomplished performer, having appeared on numerous television programs including those on Comedy Central, NBC, ABC, and CBS, and is the host of the new "Gong Show Live," a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He was the host of the popular talk show "Late Net," and hosted the television shows "The Movie Loft," "Brain Fuel," and "New York Now." He also produced and directed the very successful film "The Latin Legends of Comedy."

Kevin Meaney is a huge comedy star. He was on "Saturday Night Live," starred in the sitcom "Uncle Buck," and was in the movie "Big" with Tom Hanks.

He has done two HBO specials, appeared on "The Tonight Show" numerous times with BOTH Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, has appeared on "Oprah," "The David Letterman Show," and starred on Broadway in "Hairspray."

Chuck Nice is a New York radio star and very recognizable face; he has been on countless television shows, from VH1's "Best Week Ever" to NBC's "Today Show" to Tru TV's "World's Dumbest" to ABC's "The View" to his own show on HGTV.

Lenny Marcus recently made his second appearance

on "The David Letterman Show," and has been on Comedy Central, MTV, and at the prestigious Montreal Comedy Festival and the HBO Comedy Festival.

Kyle Grooms has been on the hit program "Chappelle's Show" numerous times. He has had his own Comedy Central special, was on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," and has appeared in

multiple television commercials.

Moody McCarthy has had spectacular appearances on both "The David Letterman Show" on CBS and also "The Jimmy Kimmel Show" on ABC.

DC Benny has been in several films, and has appeared on "Showtime at the Apollo," the "Late Late Show" on CBS, and has had his own

Comedy Central special.

Joe List tours all over the United States. He has been on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," Comedy Central, and the HBO Comedy Festival.

All eight comics perform regularly in New York City's biggest venues.

Tickets for the shows can be purchased for Cash Only, available at the comedy showroom in the Aruba Marriott Resort lobby.

Prices are \$39 per ticket. Seating is first come first serve!

As a bonus, each comedy ticket is good for up to \$50 in Free Slot Play at the Marriott

Stellaris Casino! And each comedy ticket is also good for a 20% discount at the La Vista restaurant.

The shows are intended for an adult audience.

There is NO drink minimum. A full bar and food menu will be available.

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<p>KEVIN MEANEY The Tonight Show, Uncle Buck on CBS, two HBO Specials, Hairspray, and Big</p>	<p>KYLE GROOMS VH1, NBC's Last Comic Standing, Chappelle's Show, Comedy Central</p>	<p>MOODY MCCARTHY Late Show with David Letterman on CBS, Jimmy Kimmel Live! on ABC</p>	<p>DC BENNY Late Late Show on CBS, Comedy Central, The Apollo, USO Comedy Tour</p>

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Putin calms war fears but defiant on keeping Crimea



MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin has calmed fears of an imminent war between Russia and Ukraine's new authorities but also made clear that Moscow has no intention of loosening its new grip on Crimea in defiance of Western anger.

Breaking an uncharacteristic silence since the downfall of president Viktor Yanukovich 10 days ago, Putin on Tuesday displayed no fear of a prolonged crisis in ties with the West over the situation in the Ukrainian region of Crimea which is now controlled by pro-Moscow forces.

He also showed zero inclination of recognising the new Kiev authorities which came to power after the ousting of Yanukovich but admitted the deposed leader had neither a political future nor any authority.

The standoff between Moscow and the new pro-West leadership had

prompted apocalyptic fears of Russian tanks rolling across Ukraine's eastern borders in a conflict that could draw in NATO.

But Putin's comments appeared to calm the wildest scenarios while making clear his steely determination that Russia would not give up its newly-acquired control over Crimea, a region with a majority Russia-speaking population.

"Putin made clear that they will not be an extensive war -- at least such a radical scenario has been set aside," said Alexei Makarkin of the Centre for Political Technology in Moscow.

"But he will not leave Crimea and he is going to preserve real control there."

The Russian strongman said Russia would use force as a "last resort" and there was no current necessity to send troops in.

Putin strongly denied that Russian troops were already in Crimea and said that it was "local self defence forces" who were in control of the Black Sea peninsula.

It appears Putin wants to keep Crimea part of Moscow's sphere, even if the rest of Ukraine is not set to drift to the West after the ousting of Yanukovich.

Formal annexation to Russia may not be on the cards but Putin will make sure the writ of the Kiev authorities has little value on the peninsula.

A pro-Kremlin prime minister has already been named in Crimea and a referendum set for March 30 is set to seal

its status as a Moscow satellite.

Makarkin said Crimea may become a region like the impoverished Russian-speaking Transnistria breakaway region of Moldova which is kept functioning by Moscow. Another, more extreme option, would be recognising its independence in the future, as Moscow did with the Georgian breakaway region of Abkhazia.

'Putin wants Crimea as souvenir'


For a man who famously described the break-up of the USSR as the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the 20th century, there is a huge attraction in grabbing Crimea, a region which many Russians regard as part of their nation.

Putin is also eyeing the situation in the largely Russian-speaking east of Ukraine but that region would prove a far bigger -- and more dangerous -- mouthful for the Kremlin.

"He wants to show that we are not going to give up Crimea but we don't want a rupture with the international community," said Makarkin.

Putin a week ago was soaking up praise for Russia's smooth organisation of the Sochi Olympics but showed remarkably little concern about the international repercussions, shrugging off Western threats not to show up to the G8 summit Russia is due to host in Sochi.

"If they don't want to come, they don't need to," he said.



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US pledges \$1 bln to Ukraine...

Continued from pg 1

Kerry -- who held talks with interim president Oleksandr Turchynov and new Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk -- also paid tribute to protesters killed on Kiev's Independence Square.

The deadly clashes there culminated in the ouster of pro-Kremlin president Viktor Yanukovich late last month, triggering the Crimean crisis.

Kerry said Russia had committed an "act of aggression in Ukraine" by mobilising troops in Crimea.

"I think that it is clear that Russia has been working hard to create a pretext for being able to invade further," he said.

He also suggested Russia could expect further punitive action by the international community unless it took steps to calm the situation. The US has already withdrawn military cooperation.

"If Russia does not choose to de-escalate... then our partners will have absolutely no choice but to join us to continue to expand the kind of steps we have taken in recent days in order to isolate Russia politically, diplomatically and economically," he added.

Kerry also said that the US offer of \$1 billion in loan guarantees was "immediate" and aimed "to support Ukraine's recovery", with US authorities working on a broader plan including with the International Monetary Fund.

On Tuesday, the European Commission also offered an

aid package reportedly worth more than one billion euros, as cash-strapped Ukraine says it needs 25 billion euros (\$35 billion) over two years.

US officials travelling with Kerry said Moscow could face sanctions within days.

"I think there will be movement on sanctions very likely later in this week and there is a whole spectrum of sanctions," one said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

US President Barack Obama said Russia was not "fooling anybody" over the crisis in Ukraine after Vladimir Putin denied Russian forces were operating on the flashpoint Black Sea peninsula of Crimea.

Obama said the European Union and allies like Canada and Japan all believed Russia had violated international law by mobilising troops following the February 22 ouster of pro-Kremlin president Viktor Yanukovich.

"President Putin seems to have a different set of lawyers, maybe a different set of interpretations. But I do not think that is fooling anybody," Obama said during a visit to a school in Washington DC.

World financial markets meanwhile rebounded Tuesday as traders interpreted comments by President Putin that force was "a last resort" as a sign that the situation in Europe's largest country was easing.

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Drugs body attacks Uruguay, 2 US states over legalising dope

VIENNA (AFP) - World drugs body INCB on Tuesday warned Uruguay and the US states of Colorado and Washington that legalising the recreational use of marijuana violated international treaties.

In its annual report, the UN agency said it saw a "dangerous" trend in Uruguay after President Jose Mujica signed into law in December his government's controversial plan to oversee the production and sale of marijuana.

The International Narcotics Control Board, which monitors the implementation of international treaties on drugs, said

Uruguay was in violation of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

The treaty prohibits the production and supply of specific drugs except under licence for specific purposes, such as research or medical treatment.

The INCB also deeply expressed regrets over "developments at the state level in Colorado and Washington, in the United States, regarding the legalisation of the recreational use of cannabis".

The Rocky Mountain state made drug history on New Year's Day with the inauguration of retail sales of marijuana.

The Pacific Northwest state of Washington is set to follow suit later this year -- even though, under federal law, marijuana remains as illegal as heroin, ecstasy and LSD.

The INCB called on the federal government in the US to "ensure that the treaties are fully implemented" throughout the country.

"When governments consider their future policies on that matter, the primary consideration should be the long-term health and welfare of the population, in the spirit of the preamble to the 1961 Convention," it said.

Record 278 nominees for Peace Prize: Nobel Institute

OSLO (AFP) - US whistleblower Edward Snowden, Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai and Russian President Vladimir Putin are among the nominees for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, as the Nobel Institute announced Tuesday a record 278 candidates.

The Nobel committee convened Tuesday for the first time this year to examine the candidate list and will announce the laureate in Oslo on October 10.

As usual, the committee refused to reveal the identity of

any of the nominees, but Lundestad said that 47 of the 278 candidates were organisations.

The Nobel committee convened Tuesday for the first time this year to examine the candidate list.

All nominations -- which can be made by lawmakers, university rectors and others deemed to have the right qualifications -- had to be sent before the February 1 deadline to be valid.

At their first meeting, the five committee members themselves can add more

names to the list.

The list is kept secret for at least 50 years, and Lundestad revealed only that 47 of the 278 candidates were organisations.

The name of this year's laureate is to be announced on October 10 in Oslo.

Last year saw 259 nominations, then also a record, and the prize was awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), involved to this day in the dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons arsenal.

Thousands protest against Caracas government



CARACAS (AFP) - Thousands of flag-waving protesters took to the streets in Venezuela Tuesday to keep the pressure on the government on the eve of the anniversary of the death of Hugo Chavez. Led by students, marchers dressed in white proceeded peacefully and without incident as they streamed through middle class neighborhoods of Caracas toward Petare, a sprawling slum and Chavista stronghold on the capital's eastern entrance. Protesters chanted "We love you Venezuela" and "Freedom!" as they walked, carrying signs and flags in the red, yellow and blue national colors. The opposition has been intent on keeping up the momentum of month-old protests against the Maduro government, which is trying just as hard to defuse the protest movement. The government today is staging a military and civilian parade to mark one year since Chavez's death of cancer, after 14 years in office.



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Anger outbursts linked to swift heart attacks

PARIS (AFP) - People who have outbursts of anger are at greater risk of having a heart attack or stroke in the two hours immediately after the episode, European researchers said Tuesday.

The study -- a big review of published papers -- is the first to give powerful statistical backing to suspicions that strong emotions can drive cardiac risk, although the underlying biological causes remain unclear.

In the two hours immediately after an angry outburst, an individual's risk of myocardial infarction or acute coronary syndrome rose nearly five-fold, to 4.7 percent, compared to times when the person was calm, the study found.

The risk of stroke tripled, to 3.6 percent, it also found. There were also higher risks for arrhythmia, or an erratic beating of the heart.

The risks rose proportionately if the person had a history



of cardiovascular problems or was frequently angry.

"Although the risk of experiencing an acute cardiovascular event with any single outburst of anger is relatively low, the risk can accumulate for people with frequent episodes of anger," said Elizabeth Mostofsky at the Harvard School of Public Health in Massachusetts.

"This is particularly important for people who have

higher risk due to other underlying risk factors or those who have already had a heart attack, stroke or diabetes.

The researchers calculated that one extra heart attack per 10,000 people per year can be expected among people with low cardiovascular risk who are angry only once a month.

This rises to an extra four per 10,000 people with a high cardiovascular risk.

Among people who were frequently angry, five episodes of anger a day would result in some 158 extra heart attacks per 10,000 people with a low cardiovascular risk per year.

The tally would increase to around 657 extra heart attacks per 10,000 among those with a high cardiovascular risk.

The authors point to previous research which found that psychological stress increases heart rate and blood pressure. Changes in blood flow can cause blood clots and may stimulate an inflammatory response from the immune system.

Further research is needed to pinpoint this mechanism and to finetune options for doctors mulling whether the best treatment should be drugs to lower cholesterol or blood pressure or psychological help or physical exercise to curb dangerous anger episodes -- or perhaps a combination.

Death-row inmate challenges Florida's use of IQ scores

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Florida inmate challenged the US Supreme Court on Monday arguing that he is intellectually disabled and therefore should not be executed, highlighting the issue of the mentally ill on death row.

Freddie Lee Hall, 68, has spent 35 years on death row for the rape and murder of a pregnant woman and is likely to be executed if his appeal fails. A decision is expected in late June.

In June 2002, the US top court barred states from executing intellectually disabled inmates, but until now left what determined that to the states themselves. In Florida, a person with an IQ of 70 or more is deemed criminally competent to be executed.

Hall has an IQ of 71, but was declared "mentally retarded" since childhood.

Part of his appeal rests on the fact that he falls within a five-percent margin of error cited by psychiatrists and experts when assessing IQ scores, and that an IQ test alone is not enough to judge whether someone is "mentally retarded" or not.

Seth Waxman, a lawyer for

Hall, said the court could not ignore that margin of error, and thus "makes the imposition of the death penalty under that condition unconstitutional."

Allen Windsor, a lawyer representing Florida, said: "Everybody has agreed on 70 for many decades... we have an adversarial process, we have a burden of proof."

But Judge Anthony Kennedy responded: "Your (legislation) prevents us to know whether or not your IQ score is accurate."

Kennedy also pointed at the 35 years Hall had spent waiting to be executed.

"In Florida, there's an average of 25.9 years on death row. Do you think it's consistent with the purpose of the death penalty?"

In neighboring Georgia, death row inmates need to prove intellectual disability "beyond a reasonable doubt." Warren Hill, who has an IQ of 70, had his application for a stay dismissed in October by the Supreme Court.

Other similar cases include paranoid schizophrenic John Ferguson, who was executed in Florida in August.

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'Slave,' 'Gravity' share Academy Awards glory

HOLLYWOOD (AFP) - Harrowing historical drama "12 Years a Slave" won the coveted best picture Oscar on Sunday, while 3D space thriller "Gravity" was the top prize winner at a politically tinged Academy Awards with seven.

True-life AIDS activist drama "Dallas Buyers Club" won three Oscars including best actor for Matthew McConaughey, while Australia's Cate Blanchett won best actress for Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine."

But 1970s crime caper "American Hustle" and Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street" went home empty-handed from the Oscars, the climax of Hollywood's annual awards season.

"12 Years a Slave" won three Oscars overall: best picture, best adapted screenplay and best supporting actress for Kenya's Lupita Nyong'o for her searing turn as a brutalized slave.

The movie, which won plaudits for depicting slavery with a raw realism not seen in the past, marks the first time the work of a black director -- Briton Steve McQueen -- has been honored with best picture glory.

"I dedicate this award to all the people who have endured slavery and the 21 million people who still suffer slavery today," McQueen said.

Mexican Alfonso Cuarón won best director for "Gravity," the first Latin American to win the award.

His film -- hailed for its jaw-dropping imagery -- took six other prizes: best visual effects, sound editing, sound mixing, cinematography, film editing and original score.

As widely expected, Jared Leto won the best supporting actor Oscar for his fearless portrayal of a transgender woman suffering from AIDS

in "Dallas Buyers Club."

Before the show, Hollywood's finest paraded on the red carpet, mercifully dry after storm clouds lifted. Nyong'o was one of the shining fashion stars, in a pale blue pleated Prada gown.

Oscars host DeGeneres helps TV ratings to 10-year high

HOLLYWOOD (AFP) - Oscars telecast ratings hit a 10-year high, preliminary data showed Monday, as Ellen DeGeneres won plaudits for her slick hosting of Hollywood's biggest night -- and broke a Twitter record.

The 86th Academy Awards were seen by 43 million Americans Sunday, drawing the biggest audience of any entertainment program since the finale of hit sitcom "Friends" in May 2004, according to estimates by ratings service Nielsen.

The three-and-a-half-hour show averaged a 12.9 rating for adults aged 18-48, according to the preliminary figures cited by ABC, the Oscars broadcaster.

DeGeneres, hosting the Oscars for the second time -- seven years after her first turn -- ordered pizza and poked fun at her audience at Hollywood's biggest night of the year.

Following in the footsteps of celebrated Oscars hosts such as Billy Crystal and Bob Hope, the 56-year-old mixed wry, deadpan humor and cracked jokes at the expense of her A-list audience.

Her celebrity selfie with stars including Brad Pitt, Meryl Streep and Jennifer



Lawrence had nearly 100,000 retweets within five minutes, and over 2.8 million by Monday morning.

The show's ratings were up some six percent from last year's show, hosted by comic Seth MacFarlane, who was accused of bad taste in some of his jokes.

While reviews overall were mixed, many critics lavished praise on DeGeneres, in particular for the way she spent much of the evening among the audience, rather than on stage.

"The show was trim, fleet, elegant, and organic, with few unnecessary bells and whistles; almost everything in it seemed to have a purpose," said Entertainment Weekly.

"Her real achievement, though, was to make the

prospect of an Oscar host roaring through -- and interacting with -- the celebrity audience feel, for the first time, like a relaxed, fun, and totally natural thing to do."

USA Today contrasted her performance with MacFarlane last year, saying producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan had learned a lesson.

"Choose a better host, you get a better show. Choose a really good host, as DeGeneres proved to be Sunday, and you get the best Oscar broadcast since, well, the last time she hosted," the newspaper wrote.

But not everyone was convinced.

"This year's Oscars was more like an endurance test -- turgid, badly directed, poorly produced and featuring an endless string of tired or

wince-inducing moments from host Ellen DeGeneres," said the Hollywood Reporter.

The show's ratings increased for the third year in a row, while its share of 18-34 year-old viewers was a seven-year high, and of teenagers (12-17) was a three-year high.

The most-watched Oscars show ever was in 1998, when 55.3 million people watched "Titanic" win 11 Academy Awards including best picture as Crystal hosted, according to the Los Angeles Times.

This year's Oscars blasted Hollywood's other main awards shows: the Golden Globes in January were watched by 22.1 million people and the Grammys by 14.5 million, according to the Nielsen figures cited by ABC.

Harrowing historical drama "12 Years a Slave" won best picture at the Oscars, while 3D space thriller "Gravity" took seven prizes including best director for Mexico's Alfonso Cuarón.

Matthew McConaughey took best actor for true-life AIDS activist drama "Dallas Buyers Club," while Cate Blanchett won best actress for her turn in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine."



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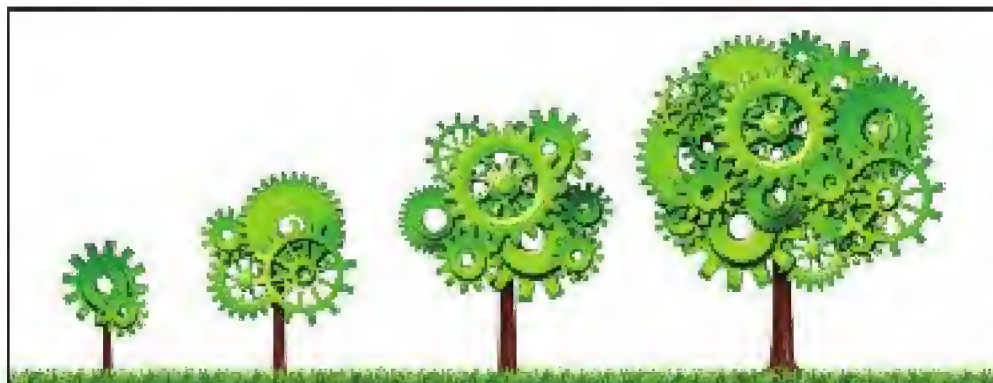
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Dubai donors pledge \$11 mn for UN-led 'green' economy push

DUBAI (AFP) - Donors at a Dubai conference on Tuesday pledged over \$11 million in support for a UN-led initiative to push for green economies through sharing expertise and technology with developing nations.

The Partnership for Action on a Green Economy, launched by the UN in 2013, tries to help countries "transition towards greener and more inclusive economies," as per the Rio+20 Declaration two years ago.

The programme's backers



"have collectively contributed and pledged more than \$11 million to jump start activities under the partnership," organisers of the first PAGE conference in Dubai said.

The partnership had started with Mongolia and Peru, and

Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Mauritius joined yesterday.

Countries including Finland, Norway, South Korea, Sweden and Switzerland finance the programme.

PAGE does not fund projects but helps governments set

strategies to develop their economies, according to Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

A global shift towards sustainable economies is still met by a "pre-conception that more efficient transitions towards a green economy are somehow going to stop development," Steiner told AFP.

Steiner said green economies could "become a driving force for the global economy as a whole".

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 had been billed as a once-in-a-generation chance to overhaul an economic model that had left a billion people in poverty and imperilled the environment.

But the three-day Rio+20 conference issued a 53-page declaration, which observers said only provided further proof the UN is failing to take action on global environmental threats.

Ethiopia's teff grain set to be world's next 'super-food'

DEBRE ZEYT (AFP) - Under a searing midday sun, a herd of cattle circles atop a pile of golden teff, thrashing the wheat-like grain, a method that has been practised by Ethiopian farmers for centuries. The crop, mostly grown in the Horn of Africa, is a key part of the country's heritage and a crucial food staple, but is also gaining increased interest abroad among health aficionados seeking a nutritious, gluten-free alternative to wheat.



Relatively unknown outside of Ethiopia -- for now -- the cereal is predicted to replace quinoa as the latest global "super-food". The poppy-seed sized grain is renowned for its nutritional qualities. Mineral-rich and high in protein, teff is also a slow-releasing food, ideal for diabetics, and sought after by people with a gluten intolerance, or Celiac disease. In Ethiopia, teff is used to make injera, a spongy fermented pancake topped with meat or vegetable stew and consumed with an almost religious devotion, often three times a day. In the West however, where it is touted by celebrity chefs and health-conscious Hollywood stars, the grain is most commonly ground into flour and used to make biscuits, breads, pastas and even teff juice. It is also a resilient crop; it can grow between sea level and 3,000 metres and is both drought- and flood-resistant. An estimated two million tonnes per hectare is required to reach export potential.

30,000-year-old virus from permafrost is reborn

PARIS (AFP) - French scientists said Monday they had revived a giant but harmless virus that had been locked in the Siberian permafrost for more than 30,000 years.

Wakening the long-dormant virus serves as a warning that unknown pathogens entombed in frozen soil may be roused by global warming, they said.

Dubbed Pithovirus sibericum, the virus was found in a 30-metre (98-foot)-deep sample of permanently frozen soil taken from coastal tundra in Chukotka, near the East Siberia Sea, where the average annual temperature is minus 13.4 degrees Celsius (7.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

The team thawed the virus and watched it replicate in a culture in a petri dish, where it infected a simple single-cell organism called an amoeba.

Radiocarbon dating of the soil sample found that vegetation grew there more than 30,000 years ago, a time when mammoths and Neanderthals walked the Earth, according to a paper published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

P. sibericum is, on the scale of viruses, a giant -- it has 500 genes, whereas the influenza virus has only eight.

It is the first in a new category of viral whoppers, a family known as Megaviridae, for which two other categories already exist.

Unlike the flu virus, though, P. sibericum is harmless to humans and animals, for it only infects a type of amoeba called Acanthamoeba, the researchers said.





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Radio Shack to shutter 1,100 stores

NEW YORK (AFP) - US electronics retailer Radio Shack said Tuesday it would close up to 1,100 stores, one fifth of its total, in an effort to turn the struggling chain around.

Chief Executive Joseph Magnacca said the move was necessary after tough competition and lower traffic left the company with a \$191 million loss in the fourth quarter, triple the year before, and a \$400 million loss for all of 2013.

The closures would cut the company's outlets to around 4,000; Radio Shack did not say how many jobs would be affected.

Challenged by other retailers and online sales, Radio Shack has suffered falling turnover and a shrinking customer base.

Total revenues fell 11 percent to \$3.4 billion last year, and were down 20 percent in the fourth quarter, the crucial holiday shopping period.

"Even in this environment, we're continuing to make progress on the five pillars of our turnaround plan: repositioning the brand, revamping the product assortment, reinvigorating the stores, operational efficiency and financial flexibility," said Magnacca in a statement.

Apple finance chief retiring

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Apple on Tuesday announced that the chief finance officer who served during the company's meteoric rise over the past decade is retiring later this year.

Peter Oppenheimer will leave in September, turning the position over to Luca Maestri, according to the maker of iPhones, iPads, iPods and Macintosh computers.

"Peter has served as our CFO for the past decade as Apple's annual revenue grew from \$8 billion to \$171 billion and our global footprint expanded dramatically," Apple

chief executive Tim Cook said in a release.

"His guidance, leadership and expertise have been instrumental to Apple's success, not only as our CFO but also in many areas beyond finance."

Maestri joined Apple in March of last year and was said to already be managing most of the California-based company's financial matters.

Maestri's professional background spans more than 25 years and includes stints as chief financial officer at Xerox and Nokia Siemens Networks, now called Nokia Solutions and Networks, according to Apple.

"I am confident he will be a great CFO at Apple," Cook said of Maestri.

"When we were recruiting for a corporate controller, we met Luca and knew he would become Peter's successor."

Oppenheimer said in a release that after 18 years working at Apple, he was going to take time for himself and his family. His stated plans for the future included traveling the world and completing the requirements for a pilot's license.

White House foresees steady growth, falling deficit

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House projected a steady fall in the US deficit over the next decade while the economy grows moderately, as it released its budget for the 2015 fiscal year on Tuesday.

President Barack Obama's team foresees the American economy growing by 3.1 percent this year and by 3.4 percent the next, with inflation remaining under control, rising to only 2.0 percent in 2015.

"Building on the progress already made, the budget's deficit reduction measures are more than enough to achieve the key fiscal goal of stabilizing the debt as a share of GDP," the document said.

The budget projects steady progress in building income, so that the government can reach a primary surplus -- spending excluding debt service -- by 2018.

The White House's modestly expansive budget will almost certainly be blocked in Congress, because it contains

certain tax increases and spending rises that Republicans have already rejected outright.

But it offers a view that the country's budget deficit, which boomed after the 2008 crisis, can be quickly brought down to comfortable levels, falling to \$564 billion, or 3.1 percent of GDP, in the fiscal year beginning October 1 and to 2.2 percent of GDP by 2020.

Those levels were last seen in the buoyant years before the 2008 financial crisis, when bailouts of the financial and auto industries drove up government spending, while a deep recession cut revenues deeply.

The fiscal deficit soared to \$1.4 trillion in 2009 -- more than 10 percent of GDP -- and was still above \$1 trillion in 2012, when Democrats and Republicans agreed on tough measures to reduce the shortfall.

The budget for the year beginning October 1 is projected at \$3.9 trillion, up 6.8 percent from the current year.

Discretionary spending -- the third of the budget that excludes mandatory programs like social security and medicare -- is barely changed at \$1.16 trillion, mainly because of a deal last year with Republicans in Congress to restrain spending growth.

A key to the budget figures -- and to why Republicans will resist the document as it stands -- are Obama's proposals to increase government receipts.

The White House said the government could bring in \$650 billion over the next decade with tax reforms that would eliminate special breaks for businesses like oil companies, increase a tax that favors wealthy investors over

regular income earners, and remove various other loopholes in the tax code.

The White House also predicts \$400 billion in savings from implementing health care reforms and \$158 billion in savings from immigration reform between now and 2024.

Such added income and savings are deeply needed, the White House said, to deal with the costs of an aging population while continuing to invest in the economy itself.

"The budget secures that revenue through tax reform that reduces inefficient and unfair tax breaks and ensures that everyone, from Main Street to Wall Street, is paying their fair share," it said.

The budget's longer term outlook also sees the country's huge debt burden falling steadily.

While the absolute level of US debt -- now totalling \$17.3 trillion -- will keep rising to cover the persistent deficit, its ratio to the overall size of the economy will fall slowly, the White House said.

Using the narrower definition of debt held by the public -- which excludes intergovernmental holdings like debt exchanged with the social security trust fund -- the White House said the ratio to GDP will fall from nearly 75 percent in fiscal 2015 to 69 percent by 2024.

"The budget adheres to the spending levels agreed to by the Congress for fiscal year 2015," Obama said in a statement.

"But there is clearly much more we can and should do to invest in areas like infrastructure, innovation, and education that will create jobs, economic growth, and opportunity."

PlayStation 4 sales top six million

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Sony on Tuesday announced it has sold more than six million PlayStation 4 consoles since the videogame system debuted in November.

The Japanese consumer technology and entertainment titan said that the global sales figure includes 370,000 PS4 consoles snapped up in Japan since they launched there on February 22.

The long-awaited Japanese launch came after a stellar debut in the United States and Europe, offering a ray of hope to Sony after years of gloomy sales of its key consumer electronics goods.

House said player response to console features for sharing game play and connecting in online matches has been "phenomenal."

Early adopters of the PS4 have enthused over its vast computing capacity and the cinematic graphics it makes possible.

PS4, Wii U and Xbox One are fighting to be at the heart of digital home entertainment at a time when consoles are under intense pressure to prove their worth as people increasingly turn to smartphones or tablets for games and videos.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	A	C		A	S	S		H	O	M	E
K	I	A		S	N	I	P	O	D	D	S
I	D	S		T	A	X	I	R	E	S	T
D	E	S	P	O	T		T	A	R		
			A	V	O			S	I	G	H
C	I	N	E	M	A		A	D	I	O	S
N	A	B		Y	D	S		G	U	N	
F	R	I	D	A		E	C	L	A	I	R
L	A	S	I	K		S	A	L	T		
			S	A	P		M	O	A	N	E
O	O	P	S		A	R	M	Y	O	R	A
K	N	E	E		V	I	E	D	S	I	T
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Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	202.87
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	247.68
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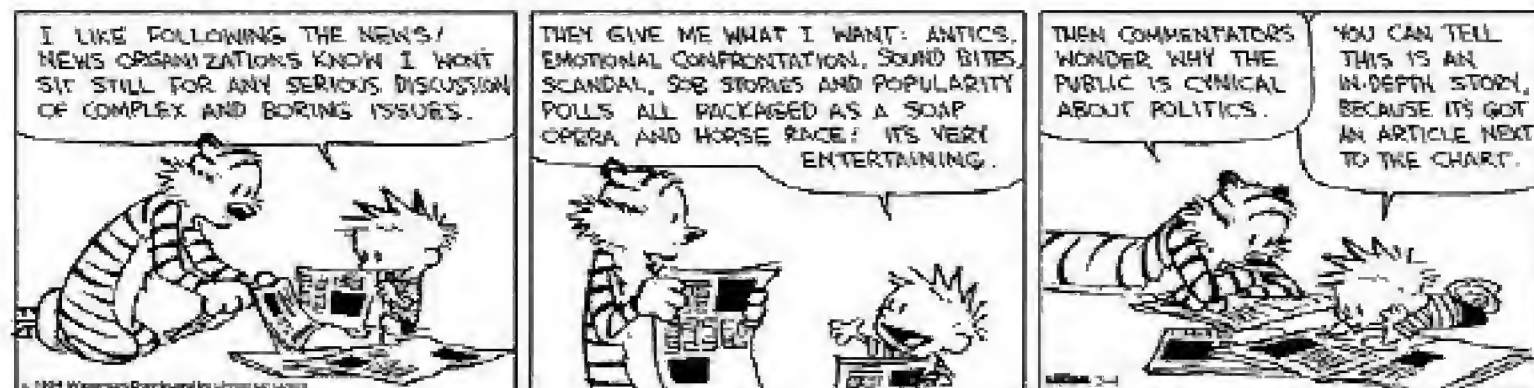
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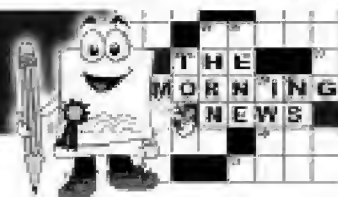
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CALVIN and HOBBS



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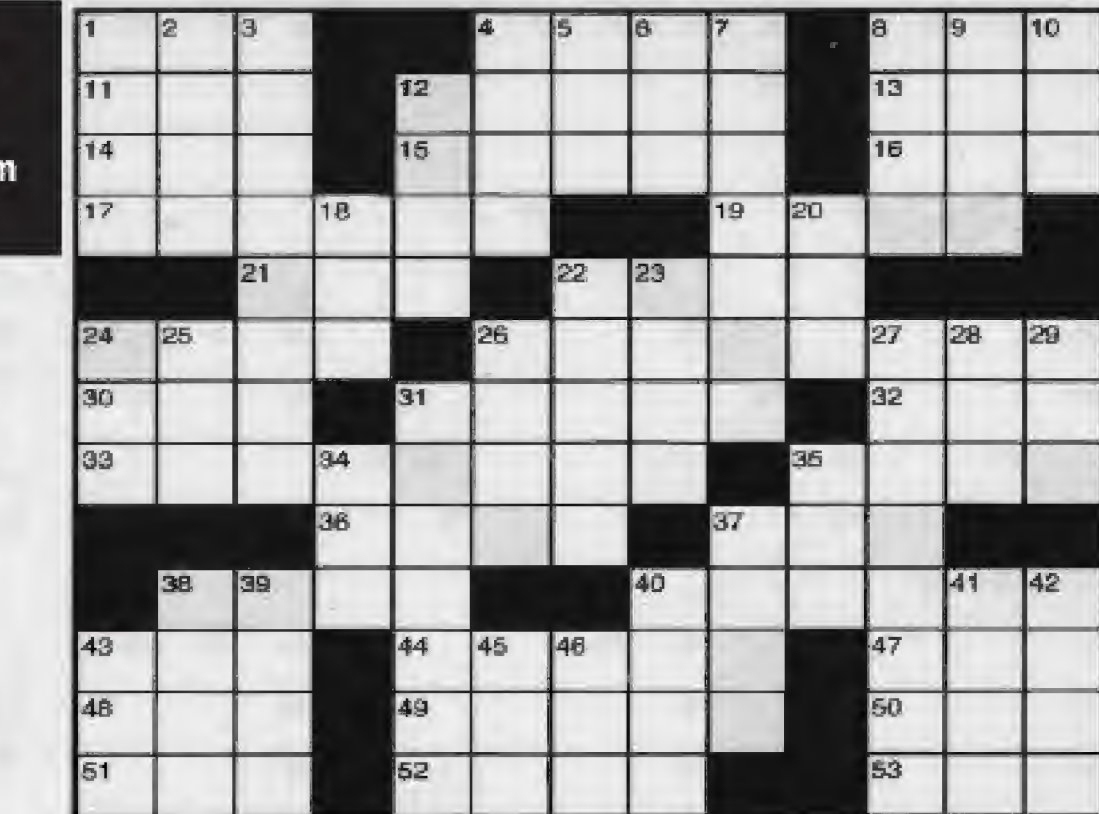


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ACROSS

1. Bunny jump
4. Table light
8. Halloween mo.
11. One, in French
12. Opera singer Callas
13. Join the crew
14. In place of
15. Betty Crocker topper
16. Top-secret U.S. org.
17. Loaded with lace
19. "___ Island with You" (2 wds.)
21. Driveway stain
22. German auto
24. Gambler's data
26. Alone and destitute
30. Intl. conflict
31. Gulps
32. "Try ___ might..." (2 wds.)
33. Moniker
35. Raised, as animals
36. Popularity
37. "Ball ___"
38. Truck name
40. Jay's predecessor



43. Daughter's brother
44. Wastes time
47. Seventh letter
48. Melting ___
49. Corrects copy
50. Meadow
51. Summer cooler
52. Insurance agents (abbr.)
53. Football measures (abbr.)
3. Recurring at intervals
4. Having frills
5. Onassis, informally
6. Hr. part
7. Far Eastern temples
8. Killer whale
9. Metal currency
10. Former airline
12. Paper factory
18. Fleur-de-___
20. Diarist Anaïs
22. One at ___ (2 wds.)
23. Goad
24. Have
25. Set's conviction (abbr.)
26. Used the pool
27. Boldly
28. Compass dir.
29. Achieved
31. More deceptive
34. Col. Sanders's outfit
35. What Scrooge shouted
37. "Bonanza" role
38. Frame of mind
39. Chip in
40. Fast planes
41. Want
42. Assenting votes
43. Mudpack locale
45. JFK's predecessor
46. Mouth border

DOWN

1. Emulate the Big Bad Wolf
2. ___ about (approximately, 2 wds.)

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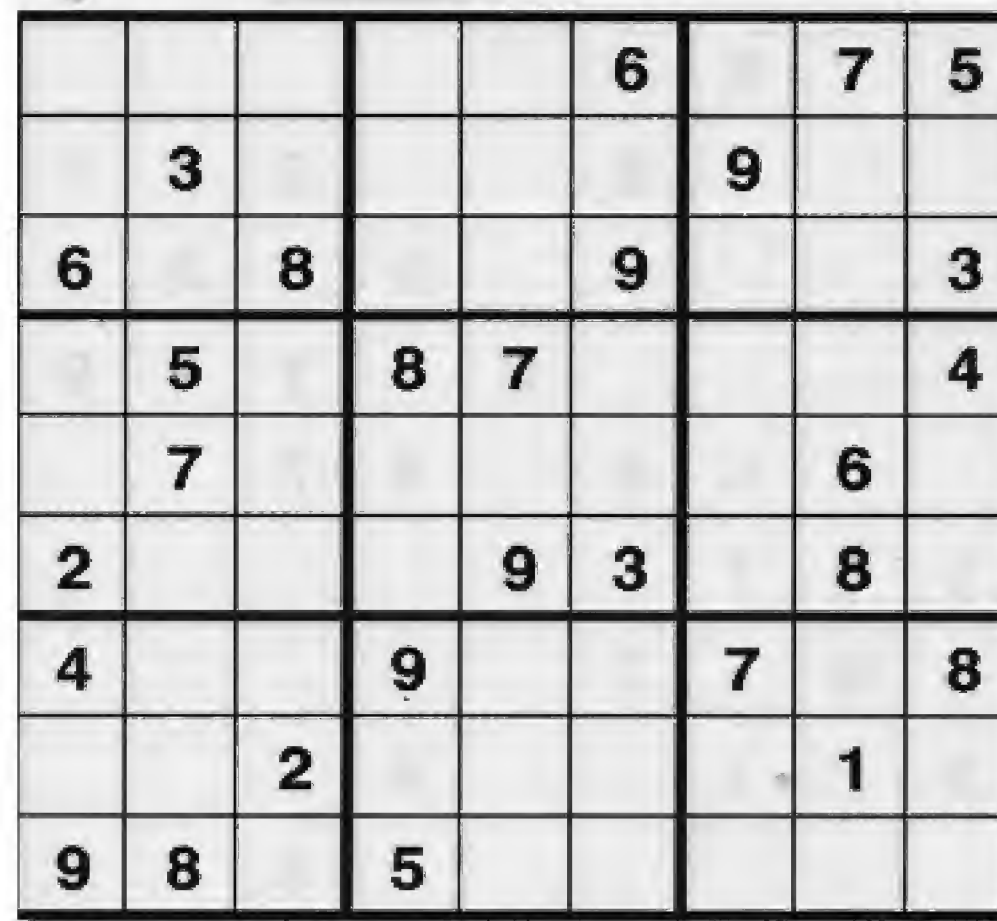
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SOLUTION

2	5	9	4	1	5	4	8	6
6	1	7	4	8	6	2	9	3
8	9	4	2	9	8	5	1	7
4	9	5	6	8	9	1	7	2
1	9	8	5	2	7	6	4	3
7	6	2	1	2	9	9	5	8
6	7	1	6	5	4	8	2	9
9	2	6	8	7	1	9	5	4
5	4	9	9	6	2	7	6	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba con-

tributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area also to house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. telf. 5860606.

Football: Van Gaal plays down Dutch World Cup chances

PARIS (AFP) - Dutch coach Louis van Gaal believes it could prove tough to achieve the target he was set to reach the World Cup semi-finals later this year, he said on Tuesday.

When he took over as national coach for the second time after Euro 2012, van Gaal, 62, was handed the task of a last four finish in Brazil.

But he said that although he had a really talented young side, it could be exposed by more experienced teams in June.

The Dutch -- who went out in the group phase of Euro 2012 leading to coach Bert van Marwijk leaving his post -- have been drawn in a particularly hard group with holders Spain, highly-thought-of Chile and Australia.

Van Gaal, who made his name as a top level coach with a young Ajax side during the 1990s by guiding them to the 1995 Champions League trophy, pitches his team up against France in a friendly on Wednesday, the last match before he names his provisional 30-man squad for the finals.

Ahead of the game he was at pains to suggest that the Dutch should not be regarded as serious contenders for the World Cup.

"According to the FIFA rankings we are eighth or tenth... it doesn't matter which, but we are not one of the favourites," he said.

"I view Brazil and Argentina and, from Europe, Spain and



Germany as the favourites.

"We consider ourselves as outsiders. I arrived as coach (after the Euro) with certain targets: qualify for the finals and then reach the semi-finals.

"We have introduced a lot of fresh young blood into the team and played really nice football and scored a lot of goals in the qualifying group.

"However, the semi-finals will be a really hard goal to achieve."

Van Gaal, who has also coached Barcelona and Bayern Munich among others, sprang to the defence of striker Robin van Persie, who has had a frustrating season both with injuries and form at struggling English champions Manchester United.

"I don't agree about his form," said van Gaal, who may well be without van Persie and Arjen Robben because of injury for the France game.

"He is just coming back from injury and despite that he

is scoring in every match (he has 11 in the Premier League this season).

"If he is managing that with his club who are not in the best of form then that is a pretty positive sign."

Van Gaal, who has had his name linked with the job at Manchester United should the directors lose faith in David Moyes, said he had changed since his first spell as national coach which lasted just two years and ended when the Dutch failed to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals.

"First time round I was a coach who placed more importance on the relations between myself and the players," said van Gaal, who is reportedly set to be replaced by Guus Hiddink after the World Cup.

"That I have now put on the back shelf and prioritised the physical shape of the players.

"But today I would like to start working again on my relations with the players."

Football: Spain a measuring stick for Prandelli's Italy

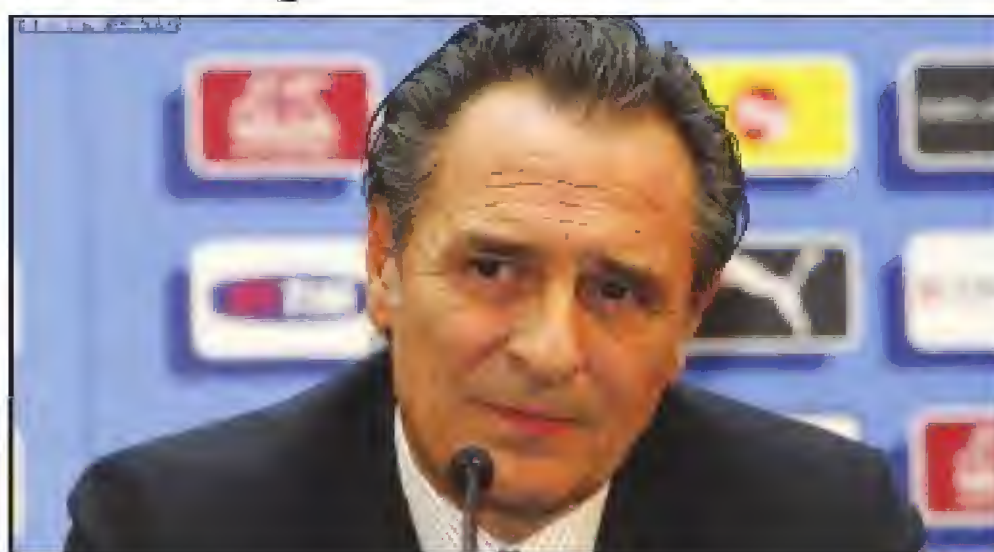
MADRID (AFP) - Italy coach Cesare Prandelli believes his side's friendly against Spain in Madrid today will be an important test for the Azzurri just three months before the World Cup.

Prandelli admitted that he was not in favour of facing the world and European champions so close to the tournament in case their paths were to cross in Brazil as they did at last year's Confederations Cup and twice at Euro 2012.

However, he recognised the value in facing one of the competition favourites as a yardstick to how his side are preparing for the World Cup.

"It is true that I didn't think it was a good thing to play this match, but at the same time it is a good measure for us to play against an opponent like Spain.

"It is difficult to find a weak



point in Spain, but we will play with a positive mentality. If we think about defending for 90 minutes we will have problems.

"Spain don't just attack well, they are very strong in general."

Prandelli confirmed that he would start with a 4-4-2 formation and that he could hand debuts to Torino forward Ciro Immobile and Parma defender Gabriel Paletta.

"Whoever plays it will be difficult for sure. For everyone it is a test to show their level, including the new players."

Spain emerged victorious from both the final of Euro 2012 and on penalties in the Confederations Cup semi-final last year.

However, Italy captain Gianluigi Buffon said given the match doesn't carry the same weight, his side will not be seeking revenge.

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Briefs:



BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona captain Carles Puyol announced on Tuesday that he will leave the club at the end of the season after a hugely successful 15-year career at the Camp Nou. The 35-year-old, who did not reveal whether he will continue playing elsewhere, has been plagued by injuries over the last couple of seasons and has undergone three knee operations. Puyol signed a new deal with the club in January last year, but admitted in June that he would not stay if injuries continued to prevent him from playing a significant part on the field. And having featured just 10 times this season in all competitions, he said it was time for a new challenge in a less physically demanding environment. The announcement brings to an end an extraordinary career in the Barcelona first team that began in 1999. Puyol is the club's second most decorated player of all-time, behind only teammate Xavi Hernandez, having made 593 appearances.



LIMA (AFP) - Pablo Bengoechea was named Peru national coach on Tuesday on a short-term contract after the experienced Argentinian Marcelo Bielsa declined the Peruvian Football Federation's offer. The 49-year-old Uruguayan, a stylish midfielder capped 43 times who scored in both their Copa America wins in 1987 and 1995, signed a contract that runs until December but is likely to be extended to the Copa America in Chile next year. Bengoechea, who played most of his club football in South America apart from a five-year stint in Spain with Sevilla, knows the Peru set-up well as he was assistant coach to compatriot Sergio Markarian during the unsuccessful qualifying campaign for this year's World Cup finals.

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Auto Racing: US racer to attempt Indy 500-NASCAR double

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - US stock car racer Kurt Busch was named Tuesday to drive in the Indianapolis 500, giving him a chance to become the fourth driver to complete a unique one-day double.

The 2004 champion of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) will become the fifth driver for team owner Michael Andretti at the historic 2.5-mile (4km) Indy oval on the afternoon of May 25.

Then the 35-year-old American will take an airplane ride to Charlotte, North Carolina, and return to his regular car in time for the Coca-Cola 600 stock car race that night, the green flag flying only six hours after the Indy 500 begins.

"This is really to challenge

myself within motorsports. It has always been a dream of mine," Busch said.

"Perhaps I am a bit of an old-school racer, a throwback. I enjoyed the era of drivers racing different cars and testing themselves in other series. It is tough to do now for a variety of factors, but when the opportunity is there, I want to do it."

Tony Stewart, co-owner of Busch's NASCAR ride, is the only racer to complete all 1,100 miles on the same day, finishing sixth at Indy and third at Charlotte in 2001. The US driver also did the double in 1999.

The others to do the double

were John Andretti in 1994 and Robby Gordon in 2004.

"I want to pop quiz everyone who's done it to learn as much as I can," Busch said.

He also wants to learn from IndyCar veteran racer Andretti and his new teammates -- Canada's James Hinchcliffe, Colombian Carlos Munoz and Americans Marco Andretti and 2012 series champion Ryan Hunter-Reay.

Busch tested an IndyCar last May at Indianapolis and passed the mandatory rookie orientation program.

"That was a whole kid in a candy store moment of experiencing an open-wheel car at 220 mph," Busch said.

NBA: LeBron hits career-high 61 as Heat beat Bobcats



MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James scored a career-high 61 points to break the Miami Heat one-game scoring record on Monday, sparking the defending NBA champions over the Charlotte Bobcats 124-107.

The Heat's season win streak stretched to eight games in a row with a 16th consecutive victory in meetings with Charlotte, whose win drought against Miami now spans four years.

James sank eight 3-pointers, hitting 22-of-33 shots from the field overall, and also grabbed seven rebounds and passed off five assists.

The former Heat single-game scoring record was 56 points by Glen Rice in April of 1995.

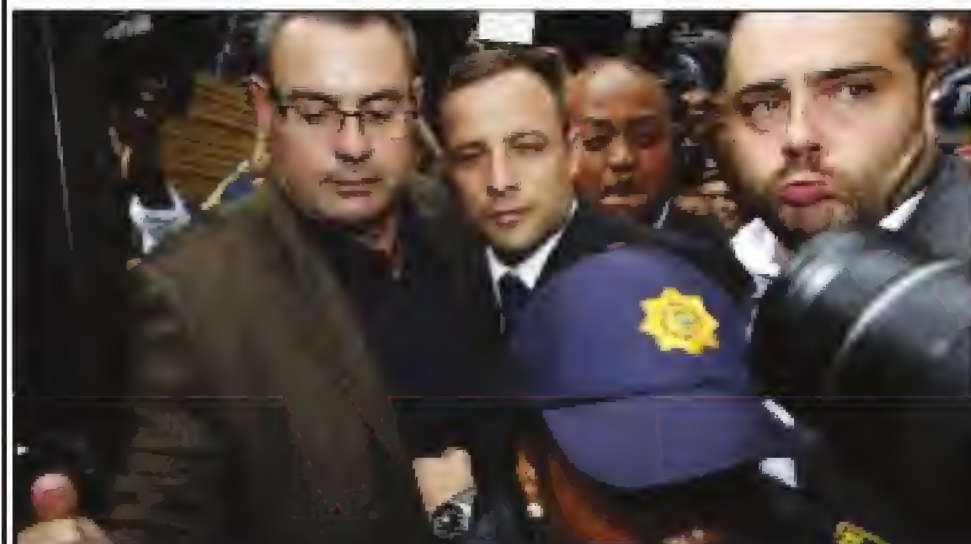
James set several other Heat team records, including 22 baskets in a game, most points in a quarter by a player with 25 and most second-half points with 37.

It was his 10th time in his career that James cracked the 50-point barrier.

Since James left the Cleveland Cavaliers for Miami, the

Heat have lost the NBA Finals to Dallas, then won the past two league playoff crowns.

Pistorius trial



PRETORIA (AFP) - June Steenkamp, the mother of Oscar Pistorius's dead girlfriend, said he walked straight past her in court on Monday, denying her the opportunity to look him in the eye. "He just walked into the courtroom and looked straight ahead. And then he sat down and never looked my way." On Tuesday the hearing was briefly adjourned in the morning after Masipa was told that a picture of Burger was accompanying an audio broadcast on a South African television station. Masipa returned to warn the media to "behave". - Estelle van der Merwe, one of the athlete's neighbours, testified that she was woken by loud noises at 1:56 am. "From where I was lying in bed it sounded to me like two people having an argument," she testified. An hour later she heard gunshots, then a man crying. Burger's husband Charl Johnson testified that he heard a woman scream, then five or six gunshots, then the screams died down. "I remember during the session of shots I heard the lady scream again. The last scream faded the moment after the last gunshot was fired."

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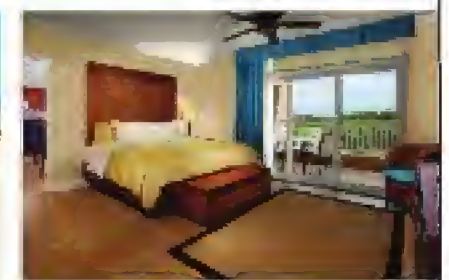
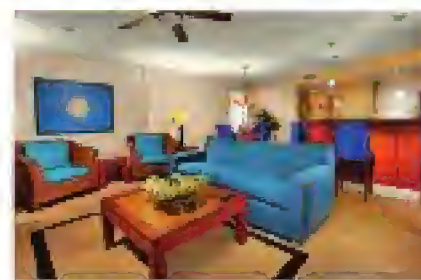
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Farewell to Aruban delegation off to South American Games

ORANJESTAD - Last week the delegation to represent Aruba at the South American Games in Santiago, Chile, were officially presented. Representatives of sports federations and family of the athletes were present for the simple yet impressive farewell ceremony held in the Ballroom of Casa Del Mar Hotel.

General Secretary of the Aruba Olympic Committee (COA) Nicole Hoevertsz, during the ceremony, presented a bit of the history of previous delegations to the South American Games also known as ODESUR.

The athletes, reportedly, prepared diligently for these games. The potential for success at these games in Chile is very high.

The athletes are prepared for a much higher level of preparation superior to previous occasions.

The other part of the program was the official presentation of the 3 different sports representing 10 athletes: Bowling: Jason Odor and Laurence Wilming, BMX:



Zaithyel Soekander, Weightlifting: Jennifer Pier, Athletics: Quincy Breell, Swimming: Jemal Le Grand, Taekwondo: Stuart Smit, Beach Volleyball: Eargenell de Cuba and Mitchell Daniel, Triathlon: Renze Postma. Two female athletes in bowling Kamilah Dammers and Tashaina Seraus were selected to be part of the delegation for the Games in Chile.

However, regrettably these can no longer participate. Kamilah has a commitment to her school in the USA and Tashaina is recovering from an accident.

The accompanying delegation will consist of the Technical Commission of COA, Chu Halabi, Edmundo Josiah as sports psychologist and a member of CEMEDAR Sports Medicine, Dr. Ricardo Vargas

and massager Win Ras.

The delegation will be led by Jairzinho Tromp. Tromp also gave a brief explanation of what may be expected of the delegation in Chile.

The President of COA, Edwin Roos and the General Secretary, Nicole Hoevertsz will also accompany the delegation.

They will be attending the General Assembly of

ODESUR, the opening ceremony and other official events.

Hoevertsz wished each athlete much success.

There is nothing more delightful than to hear your country's anthem sung and to see your country's flag flying in another country during a magna sports event such as at the 2014 South American Games, remarked Nicole Hoevertsz.

At the end of the evening each member of the delegation received a complete packet of information and their official uniform for the South American Games.

The local Toto Company was responsible for the embroidery of the sporty uniforms for the delegation.

The evening concluded with all present extending their well wishes to the athletes and expressing their wishes for a successful participation of our athletes to this important sports occasion in Santiago, Chile.

Success to you guys!